

Soybean Crop Quality 2016/2017 – Summary of results

Eighty-eight percent (132) of the 150 samples analysed for the purpose of this survey were graded as Grade SB1 and 18 of the samples were downgraded to COSB (Class Other Soya Beans). During the previous two seasons, 11% (2015/2016) and 13% (2014/2015) of the samples were downgraded to COSB.

- Two of the 18 samples were downgraded as a result of the percentage other grain present in the sample exceeding the maximum permissible deviation of 0.5%.
- One sample was downgraded as a result of the percentage sunflower seed present in the sample exceeding the maximum permissible deviation of 0.1%.
- Eleven samples were downgraded as a result of the percentage soiled soybeans present in the sample exceeding the maximum permissible deviation of 10%.
- One sample was downgraded as a result of the presence of poisonous seeds (*Convolvulus sp.*) exceeding the maximum permissible number, namely 7 per 1000 g.
- The remaining three samples were downgraded as a result of a combination of one or more of the following deviations exceeding the maximum permissible deviation: percentage foreign matter, percentage other grain and collective deviations.

According to the South African soybean grading regulations, the determination of the percentage wet pods in a consignment shall be done on a working sample of at least 10 kg of soybeans from a representative sample of the consignment. Due to practical considerations the samples received at the SAGL from the grain storage companies is typically ± 5 kg. Pods were found in five of the 150 samples graded, all of these pods were green, but not wet according to the definition, upon receipt at the SAGL. The percentage of these pods in the samples ranged from 0.04% to 0.60% based on a working sample size of at least 200 g. Only two samples contained pods, not identifiable as wet pods according to the definition, in percentages exceeding the wet pod maximum permissible deviation of 0.2%.

The number of samples containing sclerotia from the fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, almost tripled from the previous season (from 36 to 105 samples). The three highest percentages of sclerotia observed (0.38%, 0.36% and 0.30%) were on samples from Mpumalanga. These percentages are however still well below the maximum permissible level of 4%. The national weighted average percentage this season was 0.07% compared to the 0.04% of the previous season. See Graph 16.

Graph 16: Average percentage sclerotia per province over five seasons

